

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/608,103

Examiner

Carl Colin

Applicant(s)

HAMLIN, CHRISTOPHER L.

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE and IDS filed on 11/2/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/2/2006</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Handwritten signature
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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/2/2006 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/2/2006 was filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance on 10/25/2006. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

US Patent 5,235,641 to Nozawa et al. discloses an external storage device for performing encryption and decryption of data in accordance with an algorithm controlled by a data key and performing delivery and reception of data to an upper rank apparatus where generation, encryption, and decryption of the data key are performed.

US Patent 5,657,470 Fisherman et al. discloses a personal hard disk protection system design to protect data stored on computer hard disks of computers including a hardware module responsive to protection programs for allowing or denying access to the hard disk.

US Patent 5,677,952 to Blakley, III et al. discloses a method for securing information stored on a personal computer comprising a secret key derived from a user password and applying a pseudorandom function to the secret key and an index identifying a sector to generate a pseudorandom bit string. The pseudorandom bit string is then used to encrypt and decrypt data accesses to and from the sector.

Non-Patent Literature "White Papers, "Hold on to Your Memory: Password Protection For Disc Drive Security" to Erik Ottem, discloses use of password for locking and unlocking disc drive.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-16 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record US Patent 6,226,750 to Triege teaches a method and system for tracking communications in a client-server environment comprising a client sending request using a device ID for identifying a client disk drive, and first key to the server; recognizing first key at the server and

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generating a second key at the server generating a response using state information previously stored at the server and associating with the first key; sending the response and second key back to the client. The prior art of record US Patent 6,473,861 to Stokes teaches an encryption/decryption disk drive, the disk drive stores encryption keys in a secure environment. US Patent 5,931,947 to Burns et al teaches a network storage device, having a device owner for controlling access to the device's data. The device owner creates subscribers who are authorized to create objects on the device and typically includes an owner key for deriving authentication keys, a device nonce, and a nonce history contains lists of recent nonces and hashed message authentication codes (HMACs). Requests to a network storage device need to be authenticated and guaranteed for freshness, the authentication of the results and access rights is done using Hashed message authentication codes (HMACs). The prior arts of record including Nozawa, Fisherman, Blakley III, Totem, however, fail to teach singly or in combination: a secure disk drive comprising a secure drive key, an internal drive ID and more specifically a key generator for generating a client drive key based on the client drive ID and the secure drive key, and an internal drive key based on the internal drive ID and the secure drive key as recited in independent claims 1 and 9 in the light of the other limitations set forth in the claims. Consequently, independent claims 1 and 9 are allowable over the prior arts of record. Claims 2-8 and 10-16 are directly or indirectly dependent upon claims 1 and 9, and therefore are also allowable over the prior arts of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carl Colin whose telephone number is 571-272-3862. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8:00-6:30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser G. Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

cc

Carl Colin
Patent Examiner
February 2, 2007

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